

Assembly Bill No. 6

Passed the Assembly May 28, 2009

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Passed the Senate August 31, 2009

Secretary of the Senate

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 2009, at _____ o'clock ____M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

CHAPTER _____

An act to add Section 9023 to the Elections Code, relating to elections.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 6, Saldana. Initiatives: paid circulators.

Existing law regulates the process of proposing initiative measures to the people and sets forth qualifications for persons who circulate initiative petitions in the state.

This bill would require a professional petition firm, as defined, that pays petition circulators to gather signatures for state or local ballot initiatives to register with the Secretary of State and pay a registration fee to be established by the Secretary of State. The bill would require the Secretary of State to use the fees collected to maintain a directory of professional petition firms on its Internet Web site, as well as to defray costs associated with these requirements.

This bill would require a member of the firm to brief petition circulators on the relevant law regarding circulation of petitions as a condition of hiring and to submit to the Secretary of State a statement signed by each petition circulator and the member who conducted the briefing that the petition circulator has received the briefing, as well as the training materials provided to the petition circulator in connection with the briefing.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 9023 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

9023. (a) For purposes of this section, a “professional petition firm” means an entity that pays individuals to circulate petitions and gather signatures for the purpose of qualifying an initiative on a state or local election ballot.

(b) A professional petition firm shall register annually with the Secretary of State in order to be eligible to pay individuals to circulate petitions and collect signatures in order to qualify an initiative on a state or local election ballot. Registration shall

include the full name, address, and partners, owners, or officers of the firm. This information shall be accompanied by a registration fee to be established by the Secretary of State.

(c) The Secretary of State shall use the registration fees to maintain on its Internet Web site a directory of professional petition firms and to defray any other costs associated with its requirements as described in this section.

(d) A member of a professional petition firm shall review the law relating to obtaining petition signatures, including prohibitions, with each paid petition circulator, individually or in a group, as a condition of his or her hiring. A copy of the training materials provided to the paid circulators shall be submitted by the firm to the Secretary of State. A statement, signed by a paid petition circulator and the individual who conducted the review, that the paid petition circulator has received the review, required by this subdivision, of the relevant law relating to obtaining petition signatures, shall be submitted by the professional petition firm to the Secretary of State.

(e) Nothing in this section shall abridge or restrict the provisions of Section 9021.

Approved _____, 2009

Governor